

UPPER PENINSULA NET NEWS SERVING THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES



HAM OF THE YEAR
DOUG ALMQUIST
WELLSTON MI

HAM OF THE MONTH
KC9LHB MIKE MATTHEWS
WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

NOVEMBER 2009

FROM THE EDITOR-----BILL, N8NJA bkn8nja@att.net

Hello November, the month of firearms deer season in Michigan. I wish all the hunters good luck and be safe. Also we all look forward to those checkins from deer camp, so take that rig along and let us hear from you.

This month I have included a couple of articles from the ARRL Website. We more experienced hams and swlers will remember the woodpecker. Those of you who never had the pleasure of hearing this should search the internet to see if you can find an audio recording of it. A very unique sound on the shortwave band. The other article is about old ham logs. So you old guys dig those out! HI HI Well maybe you have one from your elmer or one of grandpa's. Sounds like a worthwhile project to me.

As you will also see in this newsletter there are 20 exams sessions scheduled in November and December 1st. No swaps in November, everybody hunting? . Now about the exams sessions, how many candidates will these 20 sessions have that get their first license? An average of 5 per sessions? If that is anywhere near correct that is 100, and if we say that is representative of the rest of the year, that is 1200 new hams per year in Michigan. Is this a realistic figure? Maybe some of you VE's can give me an idea if I am even close. Is there a place on the FCC website where you can look up new licenses issued in the past 12 months? I would like to know.

I had I great time on my vacation. Attended the DCARS meeting and saw a very good presentation on the history of telegraphy and early radio and ham radio. Thanks to K8WLT for taking me along. Also had a chance to visit with Aileen, and John, W8BP.

UPPER PENINSULA NET WEBSITE www.michupnet.com

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>WA8THK & XYL</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <i>SHIRLEY XYL OF WALT WA8LT</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 <i>AA8SN HOPE</i>	17 <i>K8KZG ROMAN</i>	18 <i>BETTY XYL OF WA8QIS</i>	19	20 <i>GILBERT SON OF AA8SN</i>	21
22 <i>NS8S DAVE</i>	23	24	25 <i>W8AT JOHN</i>	26	27	28
29	30					

EXAMS

09-Oct-2009 **Sponsor:** GRAND RAPIDS ARA **Time:** 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: RICHARD H DOUGLAS (616)531-6218 **Email:** KC8NKA@ARRL.NET **VEC:**
ARRL/VEC **Location:** RED CROSS BLDG 1050 FULLER AVE NE INSTRUCTION ROOM
L-4 GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

10-Oct-2009 **Sponsor:** THE GREATER FLINT VE TEAM **Time:** 1:00 PM (No walk-
ins)**Contact:** JEFFREY R PENDER (810)519-2608 **Email:** K8KZB@ARRL.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC **Location:** BAKER COLLEGE OF FLINT-TECH CENTER G-1050 W
BRISTOL ROAD ROOM S-120-PRE-REG. REG BEGINA AT 12:30 PM FLINT, MI 48507

10-Oct-2009 **Sponsor:** DCARS **Time:** 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) **Contact:**
HOWARD E ST JOHN (906)428-9476 **Email:** HSJ99@CHARTER.NET **VEC:** ARRL/VEC
Location: GLADSTONE CITY HALL 1100 DELTA AVENUE MAIN MEETING ROOM
GLADSTONE, MI 49837

10-Oct-2009 **Sponsor:** ARROW COMMUNICATIONS ASSOC. **Time:** 9:00AM (No walk-
ins)**Contact:** ROGER F PLACE (734)663-4625 **Email:** MERROGPLACE@AOL.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC **Location:** AMERICAN RED CROSS BUILDING 4624 PACKARD ST
ANN ARBOR, MI 48108

10-Oct-2009 **Sponsor:** EATON COUNTY ARC **Time:** 12 NOON (Walk-ins
allowed)**Contact:** JOHN A DEWEY (517)645-2378 **Email:** DETTA@IA4U.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC **Location:** EATON CTY SHERIFF'S DEPT-EOC 1025 INDEPENDENCE
BLVD CHARLOTTE, MI 48813

10-Oct-2009 **Sponsor:** EASTERN MICHIGAN ARC **Time:** 10:00AM (Walk-ins
Allowed)**Contact:** ROBERT G HERBERT (810)982-1561 **Email:** K8WMW@ARRL.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC **Location:** ST CLAIR COUNTY LIBRARY 2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM
210 MCMORRAN BLVD PORT HURON, MI 48060

13-Oct-2009 **Sponsor:** LIVINGSTON ARC **Time:** 7:00PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: GEORGE BRUCE VAN DAM (313)999-5547 **Email:** BVANDAM@COMCAST.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC **Location:** LIVINGSTON COUNTY EOC 300 S HIGHLANDER WAY
HOWELL, MI 48843

17-Oct-2009 **Sponsor:** HOLLAND ARC **Time:** 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JIM A LAMBERTS (616)399-6002 **Email:** JLAMBERTS@CHARTERMI.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC **Location:** WEST OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL-SOUTH CAMPUS
270 JAMES ST HOLLAND, MI 49424

17-Oct-2009 **Sponsor:** GENESEE COUNTY RADIO CLUB **Time:** 9:30 AM (Walk-ins
allowed)**Contact:** VERLE D WINNINGHAM (810)629-2633 **Email:** K8VW@ARRL.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC **Location:** MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2100 W THOMPSON RD
SOUTHERN LAKES BRANCH CAMPUS FENTON/FLINT, MI 48430

17-Oct-2009 **Sponsor:** CASCADES ARS **Time:** 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: RICHARD H MC GUIRE (517)782-1430 **Email:** DICKKI8C@JUNO.COM
VEC: W5YI VEC **Location:** JACKSON DISTRICT LIBRARY 244 WEST MICHIGAN
DOWNSTAIRS AUDITORIUM JACKSON, MI 49204

19-Oct-2009 **Sponsor:** USECA ARC **Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JOSEPH P KENNEDY (586)977-7222 **Email:** N8OZ@ARRL.NET
VEC: W5YI VEC **Location:** [HTTP://USECAARC.COM/TEST/](http://USECAARC.COM/TEST/) FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS
MOUNT CLEMENS, MI 48043

Surfin': Remembering the Woodpecker

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU
Contributing Editor

October 23, 2009

This week, Surfin' recalls a formidable ham radio nemesis from the 20th century.



The [Russian Woodpecker's antenna farm](#) was the source of formidable HF radio interference in the late 20th century.

If you were an active ham radio operator or shortwave listener between 1976 and 1989, you probably remember a rather nasty form of interference on the HF bands during that era known as the "Russian Woodpecker." Its name came about because triangulation indicated that it originated in the west end of the USSR and its signature tapping sounded like a woodpecker pecking at wood.

Its real name was Duga-3 and it served as over-the-horizon radar for the USSR's anti-ballistic missile early warning system. With an estimated transmission power of 10 MW EIRP, the Russian Woodpecker played havoc on the HF bands.

To combat the Woodpecker, some hams attempted -- [according to Wikipedia](#) -- "to 'jam' the signal by transmitting synchronized unmodulated continuous wave signals, at the same pulse rate as the offending signal. This idea was considered, but abandoned as impractical. Simple CW pulses didn't appear to have any effect. However, playing back recordings of the woodpecker transmissions sometimes caused the woodpecker transmissions to shift frequency leading to speculation that the receiving stations were able to

differentiate between the 'signature' waveform of the woodpecker transmissions and a simple pulsed carrier."

The Woodpecker disappeared in 1989. Its demise was probably due to the end of the Cold War, the end of the USSR and new satellite early-warning systems.

[Everything2](#) and [Wikipedia](#) have interesting and contradictory (from a ham radio perspective) entries about the Woodpecker. The Wikipedia entry includes [a sound file of the Woodpecker interfering with WWVH](#) in 1984.

It is an interesting piece of radio history, but what rekindled my interest in the Russian Woodpecker is the spate of photographs of the Duga-3 antenna farm that I have encountered on the Internet recently. Your mileage may vary, but I believe one of the best collections of photographs is on the [English Russia Web site](#).

By the way, the antenna farm is inside the [30 km Chernobyl Zone of Alienation](#). For some eerie photos from the Chernobyl Zone, including more photos of the Duga-3 antenna farm, visit the [Pripyat Project Web site](#).

Until next time, keep on surfen'!

Editor's note: Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, has written yet another installment of Surfin' about antennas. To contact Stan, send him [e-mail](#) or add comments to his [blog](#).

University Researchers Need Your Help as they Study Early Amateur Station Logs

Researchers are seeking copies of amateur station logs from 1913-1927, in hopes they may offer insights into the relationship between individuals' work and leisure activities, technology, and their social networks. This 1XM log from the Second Trans-Atlantic Test is signed and certified by Marconi Inspector and test referee D.E. Pearson. [Log courtesy of the MIT Radio Society] 1XM's log from the Second Trans-Atlantic Test, dated December 15, 1921, certified by Marconi Inspector and test referee D.E. Pearson.



Researchers have noted that diaries, letters, QSL cards and station logs can contain valuable insights into the link between an individual's occupation, hobbies and friends. ARRL co-founder and its first President, Hiram Percy Maxim, sent this QSL card out in January 1925. [Photo courtesy of Anthony Quest, G4UZN]

Researchers at the [University of Wisconsin](#) and [Miami University of Ohio](#) are seeking copies of amateur station logs from 1913-1927 in hopes they may offer insights into the relationship between individuals' work and leisure activities, technology, and their social networks.

"Early hams laid the foundation for the now-ubiquitous use of technology for communications and entertainment," said Director of Engineering and Operations for [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) Steve Johnston, WD8DAS. "Many operators did not work in a technical field, but pursued Amateur Radio as a hobby for its own sake. This is a true success story about how a pastime can develop into an entirely new commercial and social phenomenon."

Phil Kim, an Assistant Professor at the [Wisconsin School of Business](#), has noted that diaries, letters, QSL cards and station logs can contain valuable insights into the link between an individual's occupation, hobbies and friends. Early in Amateur Radio history, thousands of ham radio enthusiasts were licensed by the government to comply with the [Radio Act of 1912](#), and began to more carefully document the new communications era.

"Amateur Radio operators during this time period were on the forefront of a new method of communication and social interaction, similar to how social

media is evolving today," Kim said. "We notice a lot of similarities between these two groups, even across time."

Steve Lippmann, an Assistant Professor at Miami University of Ohio, concurred: "We can learn a lot about ourselves -- and our own interactions -- from how these pioneers pursued their hobby and expanded their social networks."

In an effort to uncover new information about approaches to work and leisure time and the development of social networks, Kim, Lippmann and Johnston are comparing early ham licensing records from the Department of Commerce with detailed information in amateur operators' station logs. If you happen to have an old ham station log from the period (1913-1927) that you would like to include in this study, please contact Steve Johnston, WD8DAS, via [e-mail](#) or by telephone at (608) 262-5584.

FROM ARRL WEBSITE



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